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Letter dated 11 February 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008), 1895 (2009), 1948 (2010), 2019 (2011) and 2074 (2012), I have the honour to convey a letter dated 29 January 2013 from the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, transmitting the thirty-second report on the activities of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex). The report covers the period from 1 September to 30 November 2012.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Please recycle

Annex

Letter dated 29 January 2013 from the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008), 1895 (2009), 1948 (2010), 2019 (2011) and 2074 (2012), please find enclosed the thirty-second three-monthly report on Operation Althea to the Security Council (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Catherine **Ashton**

Enclosure

Report of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the period from 1 September to 30 November 2012.

2. In its resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008), 1895 (2009), 1948 (2010), 2019 (2011) and 2074 (2012), the Security Council requested that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, report to the Council on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) at least at three-month intervals. This is the thirty-second such report.

II. Political background

3. The reporting period was largely marked by political instability and a lack of substantial progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina. While European integration remained a political priority for the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the political leaders were preoccupied with the local elections held on 7 October and with efforts to reshuffle government coalitions at both the state level and in the Federation. As a result, in its progress report, the European Commission warned that Bosnia and Herzegovina was lagging behind the region in terms of making progress on the path to European integration.

4. Although the positive momentum established during the previous reporting period has not been sustained, the next steps required for making progress on the European Union path remain unchanged. These are, notably, the implementation of the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the *Sejdic Finci* case and the setting up of the Bosnia and Herzegovina coordination mechanism for European Union affairs. The political parties of Bosnia and Herzegovina have submitted for parliamentary consideration various proposals on how to implement the ruling of the Court but have so far failed to reach a compromise that would meet the requirements of the European Union and other relevant European institutions. This is essential for the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union to enter into force.

5. Some progress has been made on the implementation of the State Aid Law and the Population and Household Census Law. The State Aid Council has been formally established, but further steps need to be taken to ensure it is fully functional. The pilot census, held in October, provided valuable input for the preparation of the countrywide census, to be held in 2013.

6. On 7 October 2012, municipal elections were conducted in a generally fair and peaceful manner; no serious incidents were reported. There were some delays in certifying the election results. Notably, in Srebrenica the electoral results were challenged, thus delaying the formation of the local institutions.

7. In Brcko district there were hopeful signs of reconciliation following the suspension of international supervision, and the mayor and the government of Brcko were appointed speedily after the local elections. In Mostar, the Office of the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement continued to carry out his facilitation functions following the absence of local elections in the city. However, owing to the intransigence of the political parties, there has been little progress in this regard.

8. Following the local elections, the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats and the Social Democratic Party concluded an agreement that led to the establishment of a new six-party coalition at the state level. The new Council of Ministers was formed in November. However, the political instability resulting from the ongoing government reshuffle in the Federation continues to distract the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina from working effectively to address the country's challenges, including the implementation of the European Union-related agenda.

9. Progress on the registration of state and defence property remained limited. Despite reiteration of the commitment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to Bosnia and Herzegovina, no progress has been registered in fulfilling the outstanding condition for the activation of the NATO Membership Action Plan.

10. The economy continued its negative trend. The forecast for 2013 has been revised to zero or negative growth. Full implementation of the latest arrangement of the International Monetary Fund for Bosnia and Herzegovina is essential. Bosnia and Herzegovina is also late in addressing the challenges deriving from the accession of Croatia to the European Union.

11. The comprehensive approach promoted by a reinforced European Union presence on the ground (resulting from the merging of the European Union delegation and the Office of the European Union special representative) and the continued close cooperation between the special representative and Operation Althea further consolidated and strengthened the European Union's engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

III. Security situation and activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

12. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period. Inflammatory nationalistic rhetoric continued, but it had no impact on the maintenance of a safe and secure environment. The rhetoric ahead of the municipal elections contributed to increased political tension. The number of inter-ethnic incidents so far in 2012 was lower compared with the same period in 2011 and almost at the same level as during 2010. Organized crime was characterized by a large number of small groupings, with no consolidated and permanent links among them. The number of crimes committed against property grew, as did the use of firearms in different sorts of crime. Football-related hooliganism with ethnic undertones remained an issue of concern countrywide. The current economic situation (rising food and energy prices), the high rate of unemployment and the weak administrative structures remained matters of concern.

13. Corruption continued to be a concern and was in general not successfully prosecuted.

14. Law enforcement agencies continued to prove capable of dealing with threats to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment and EUFOR was not called upon to intervene.

15. As at 1 September 2012, the force has been reconfigured in line with Council conclusions. The main effort is on building capacity and training while retaining the means to contribute to the deterrence capacity of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The force was concentrated in Sarajevo, and liaison and observation teams were deployed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Twenty-three nations (18 European Union, 5 non-European Union) provided troops.

16. A new intermediate reserve concept has been developed to allow the European Union to deploy a minimum of four companies within four days independently, without having to bid for the shared European Union/NATO operational reserve. These companies are based outside the country and, once called to the operation, will operate under the multinational battalion command and control within the overall EUFOR structure.

17. The capability of the shared European Union/NATO over-the-horizon reserve forces was limited because the forces were partially deployed to Kosovo and because on 15 November 2012 the German-Austrian battalion withdrew its support to EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

18. EUFOR continued to advise and monitor the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of activities related to ammunition and weapons storage sites, the civilian and military movement of weapons and military equipment, the disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition and defence industry factories.

19. On 14 November 2012, the Security Council adopted resolution 2074 (2012), by which it extended the executive mandate of EUFOR for another year.

IV. Outlook

20. The security situation is expected to remain calm and stable.